

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield, on Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Members absent

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Others present

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Councilman Hudson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of October 7, 2008, Agenda

Chairman Kneece asked for a motion to approve the October 7th agenda. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2008, Regular Meeting of the Edgefield County Council was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motions carried unanimously.

Reports

No comments.

Ordinances

Councilman Hudson made the motion to postpone the first reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-601, "An Ordinance Providing for a Lease and Agreement Between Edgefield County and Western Carolina Aviators, LLC, for Approximately One Acre of Land with Improvements Consisting of a Metal Aircraft Hangar Building Located at the Trenton Airport" until a later date. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens and the

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008**

motion carried unanimously.

First reading of Ordinance No. 08-09-602, "An Ordinance to Restrict the Use of All Tobacco Products at All Edgefield County Owned or Leased Recreation Facilities was approved with a motion made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

The first reading (by title only) of Ordinance No. 08-09-603, "An Ordinance to Adopt a Comprehensive Plan for Edgefield County" was postponed until a later date by a motion made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

No Resolutions.

New Business

United Way Loaned Executive

George Harakas, National Wild Turkey Federation HR Director, was present to address council concerning his role as the United Way's Loaned Executive. He advised council that he would be calling on businesses in the county to promote the payroll deduction program for employees. Any monetary donations are welcomed. The goal is \$90,000 for this year. United Way supports many things, among them being the 211 help line. The chairman thanked Mr. Harakas.

Millage presentation.

Bill Gilchrist, Edgefield County Auditor, was present to present the millage for 2008, and recommended the following: county operations 71.0; county debt service 6.57; industrial development 0.83; recreation 3.08; EMS 10.60; hospital operations 6.5; fire district 10.0; school operations 180.44; school bonds 23.5, for a total of 312.52. Total millage rate for Edgefield County incorporated areas before any municipal millage: 302.52. Millage rates on vehicles will change January 2009.

For commercial and non owner occupied residential buildings, on every \$100,000 assessment there is a \$45 increase. On owner occupied residential property, the increased tax is \$10. Based on 100% collections of current taxed properties, the value of the 2008 mill is 68.392, an increase of 3.4%. For 2007 it was 66.159.

Mr. Gilchrist informed council of a Fee-in-Lieu Agreement council approved with Southern Felt in 2006. There has been an addition done to that building and Bill gave a total of that tax bill for the Fee-in-lieu being \$16,700.00 Approximately \$3,500 of that will go to county operations, and in addition to that Southern Felt has a manufacturing bill of about \$180,000 that goes into the tax base every year. That basically pushes the

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008

fee-in-lieu total for county operations when combined with the other listings we have in the county to between \$95,000 and \$100,000.00

The state has advised individuals getting homestead exemption this year that the county not mail out tax notices with social security numbers (because of identity theft). In the past if you were qualified for homestead, under the pay column of the bill it had an H number which was your SS number. There will now be a number there which will resemble a receipt number.

Veterans Day Observance

Mr. John Culbertson, representing the Veterans Day committee, came before council concerning the *Veterans Day Observance* that is planned for November 8, 2008, at Strom Thurmond High School. Mr. Culbertson informed council no county funds would be used for the fireworks display – they have a donor that has already agreed to foot that bill. We will appreciate any monetary support that council can give. Motion was made by Chairman Kneece, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to contribute \$500 to the Veterans Day Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Culbertson, recently appointed as the Ambassador for Economic Development from Edgefield County for this year, asked council to allow him to extend his thanks for the support he and the Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce have received from council members. Without council's support and involvement in the Vision 20-20 Project that would never have come to pass.

In addition, as Vice-Commander of the American Legion Post 30, he thanked council personally for the support of the Post. This helped the Legion to pay their insurance which was a very big thing to them.

Petition for Road Closure.

Ms. Jennifer Sumner, Attorney for Brad Thompson, appeared before council concerning the closing of a portion of a county road; namely, "That portion of Odell Adams Road at a point where subject road intersects with the eastern side of Little Stevens Creek and runs in a westerly direction until it intersects property now or formerly owned by the US Forest Service." Mr. Thompson is the owner of all of the property abutting the portion of the road to be closed.

All of the proper steps and paperwork have been followed under Section 57-9-10, SC Code of Laws (1976).

Councilman Hudson asked if all property owners on the road have been notified of the closing. He feels that all of the property owners should know that a certain portion of the road is to be closed. Ms. Sumner stated that the road has access going out – it isn't

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008

necessary for the property owners that are on the other part of the road to have access to the part being closed. It actually runs into the US Forestry property.

Mr. Thompson stated he does own the property on both sides of the road requesting to be closed and the reason he did not notify the property owners on the other end was because that isn't how the statute reads. The reason for the request to close the road is because of vandalism to his property – trespassing, cutting fences (letting cows out), riding four-wheelers. There is a fair amount of littering and erosion from the road is going into his pond and into Little Stevens Creek. Little Stevens Creek and Turkey Creek – that whole watershed is a treasure to Edgefield County. By closing the road that would solve his problem he said and hopefully it will be a win-win situation for the county relieving them of maintenance to the road. There is access from Highway 378 to the other end of Odell Adams Road.

Councilman Hudson asked that before a vote was taken the county notify every person that owns property on that road. We have an obligation to the people of this county to make sure we do things right before we go closing a road – every person on that road should know it is going to be closed, whether they live there or not. I (Hudson) don't see what is so hard--we just send them a letter letting them know there is a request to close this road. Just because the statute does not state it that way that is wrong, really wrong (not to notify all property owners).

Councilman Kitchens agreed, just a courtesy, and also believe there is a bridge involved. “Do I understand that the county will construct a turn-around at the creek?” The administrator stated that the area Mr. Thompson is asking to close goes across the creek. The area on the other side of the creek would continue to be a county maintained road and so just to make it safe for people using that portion of the road someone would have to construct some sort of a barrier or wall so you would not go into the creek. There may or may not be sufficient room for someone to turn around on that other side. The wooden bridge in the creek probably should be removed because if you leave it there the people will be tempted to try to go over it. It may need some maintenance in the future. The road supervisor said it would probably take about a half of a day to take the bridge out and put up a barricade. There is a little area that needs to be cleared on the other side of the creek. Mr. Thompson stated he is willing to bear the expense – not asking the county to pay for it.

Councilman Hudson made a motion that we notify all persons that own property on Odell-Adams Road prior to voting to pass the closing of the road. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens. Motion carried with a nay by Councilman Dorn.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008

Water & Sewer Authority appointments

Two terms on the Water & Sewer Authority Board expired September 15, 2008, John C. Timmerman and Daniel R. Day. Mr. Timmerman agreed to serve another term but Mr. Day declined.

A recommendation was received that Carroll L. Clark of Trenton be appointed to this board. Mr. Clark has agreed to serve. Chairman Kneece made the motion, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to recommend Carroll L. Clark to a term on the Water and Sewer Authority Board, filling the vacancy created by the expired term of Daniel R. Day. Motion carried unanimously. (Under the state law the county council recommends to the local House Delegation who then recommends to the Governor for appointment.)

Councilman Hudson made the motion to recommend John C. Timmerman to serve another term on the Water and Sewer Authority Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dorn and the motion carried unanimously.

Medical Director Agreement

Jewel Plaxco, EMS Director, asked council's consideration of a Medical Director Agreement between the County of Edgefield on behalf of its EMS, and Dr. Tammi Massey. She serves as the EMS Medical Control Director. Prior to Dr. Massey, Dr. George Rainsford served for 25 years. The county is required to have a qualified emergency physician to serve as Medical Control Director for EMS. The County may extend this agreement on an annual basis if it is determined to be in the best interest of the County, provided, however, the term including all extensions shall not exceed five (5) year. This agreement also incorporates the sheriff's department 911 dispatchers. The Medical Director will approve their pre-arrival instructions. Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the Agreement for the Medical Control Director for EMS. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Zoning Board appointment

A vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals has been created with the resignation of Charles Eubanks. His three year term ended March 2008. At the September council meeting Chairman Kneece asked council members to submit names at the October meeting. Councilman Dorn submitted Calvin Jackson's name, Fairway Drive, Edgefield, to serve a term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Dorn stated that Mr. Jackson was willing to serve Motion made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Kitchens to approve Calvin Jackson to serve on the Zoning Board. Motion carried with Councilman Hudson stating he did not know anything about Mr. Jackson and thus voting no.

At this time Councilman Kitchens asked to bring to the floor a new business item. "On the Westside we have a community center that is very active and it also serves as a voting

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008**

precinct. It is in dire need of a new roof. I have \$6,000 that has been set aside for District 2 recreation fund and I would like to transfer that to Collier's Community Center for a new roof. I (Kitchens) make the motion to give them the \$6,000.00." Motion was seconded by Councilman Dorn, and the motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report

First, very glad to report that the county survived the recent gas shortages. We have two underground tanks that are 10,000 gallons each, an unleaded tank and a diesel tank. Our emergency vehicles (sheriff's dept. and EMS) used those and also supplemented that by buying at the pump. There were times when we could not get fuel at the pumps so it was very good that we had the fuel in the ground.

With the recreation program the football and soccer seasons are both underway. There are 265 football participants and 110 cheerleaders and approximately 150 soccer players.

Next meeting of the Edgefield County Alliance will be Monday, November 3rd, 7:30 a.m. at Piedmont Tech. A small breakfast will be served. Fred Humes, Director of Aiken-Edgefield Economic Development will be the guest speaker.

Guests.

Rodney Ashcraft signed to speak but declined.

Linda Anderson thanked the council for participating in the Aviation Appreciation Week over the weekend. Upcoming events for the Trenton Flyers to showcase the Trenton Airport will be at an air show Oct. 18 and 19. We will also host the annual Halloween candy drop, Saturday, November 1st, 4:00 pm.

Mrs. Anderson handed out to council information she received on a seminar to be held in Columbia on October 22nd on grant funding to enable county governments to help capital improvements related to maintenance issues; not for management nor for airport upkeep. Because of budget, as well as support constraints placed on them currently as well as over the past years they do not feel compelled to extend any additional funds and will have to curtail activities in support of the airport beyond those absolutely necessary. If council is interested in receiving grant funds to improve and enhance the airport maybe Mr. Pettigrew could go to the seminar to obtain further information on applying for grant funds.

Linda informed council she and Johnny are available for discussion on the new lease concerning the one acre at the airport.

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
October 7, 2008**

Grant Writer

Councilman Kitchens asked the status on the hiring of a grant writer for the county and the Chairman stated that he is waiting a reply from Upper Savannah. They will look into finding someone for this position and possibly help with the grant writing.

Claims approved:

PAYROLL	8//25/08 thru 9/07/08
Regular.....	\$227,933.11

PAYROLL	9/08/08 thru 9/21/08
Regular.....	\$228,436.18

General Operating.....	\$933,547.19
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No Executive Session

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, November 4, 2008, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

